

“Go With The Glow” Options for Walleyes

“Go With The Glow” Options for Walleyes Sam Henrichs recently offered his recommendations for this month’s Pro’s Corner article. His suggestions ranged from fishing the Snake and Columbia Rivers, to tactics on fishing Rufus Woods, amongst many others. Thanks Sam! Consequently, I thought I’d write about an often overlooked technique for late fall & winter fishing, utilizing a couple of glow options for walleyes that will likely enable you to put a few more walleyes in the livewell regardless of the body of water you opt to fish. Glow jig heads are one of my favorites during this time of year. During this period, low light conditions are common due to later sun rises, earlier sunsets, fog, cloud cover, or even because of the depth of water your fishing. Arguably, certain pieces of structure may create a shadow that allows a glow jig to be more visible than traditional colors. For those of you interested in fishing the Snake or Columbia rivers, rock piles and wing dams might be good examples. Under these circumstances, I think glow jig heads probably provide walleyes a better target to key in on. Mack’s Lure produces a bucktail jig called the “Rock Dancer” (seen below) that is an aspirin head style jig and it comes painted with glow



eyes. The purple and black versions are my personal favorites. I often use white aspirin heads as well. Aspirin heads fish great in current and are a “go-to” bait for me when paired with a Liveline Baits electric grape or junebug ringworm. Keep in mind that it wasn’t too many years ago, that numbers of folks considered glow options as nothing more than a passing fad. Today they’ve become a constant for both recreational and tournament anglers alike. Don’t leave home without a handful of them in your jig box. If

you’re willing to brave the elements, night fishing with plugs can be an excellent option at this time of year as well. A wide selection of cranks are currently produced in glow or that have glow streaks integrated into the pattern that are very popular amongst the hard core night time anglers searching for trophy fish. Years ago, I frequently fished at night on Sprague Lake right until we were unable to launch the boat due to ice. We fished very shallow and doctored up our favorite baits by adding glow paint to the eyes and sides. The addition of a little glow paint on our plugs clearly out-produced those without. A word of caution concerning night fishing when it’s cold. Night fishing can be dangerous. Add the cold weather and it becomes even more dangerous. Fish with a buddy, wear your life vest, keep your boat deck clear of obstructions, have your throw ring handy and have ample lighting readily available. Have you ever considered rigging during this time of year? Why not? Glow in the dark hooks, adding soft glow beads above a standard rigging hook or those coated with a dab or two of glow paint like those produced by Mack’s Lures excel as options during daylight hours and will remain highly visible to the “eyes” when the sunlight begins to fade. As we get closer and closer to the winter solstice, consider adding some glow to your game. You may very well be that angler with a permanent grin on your face as others around you are trying to figure out what your secret weapon is. When you hang a “hawg” be sure to perform CPR on your trophy. That’s right...CPR. Catch, Photograph and Release. Trophy fish are very vulnerable at this time of year and are a rare commodity. With your help in releasing the trophies and educating others to do the same, we’ll continue to have world class fishery for many years to come.

Tight Lines & Calm Seas, Bob Ploof